



# Salem Community Gardens

Monthly members' newsletter

<http://growsalem.org>

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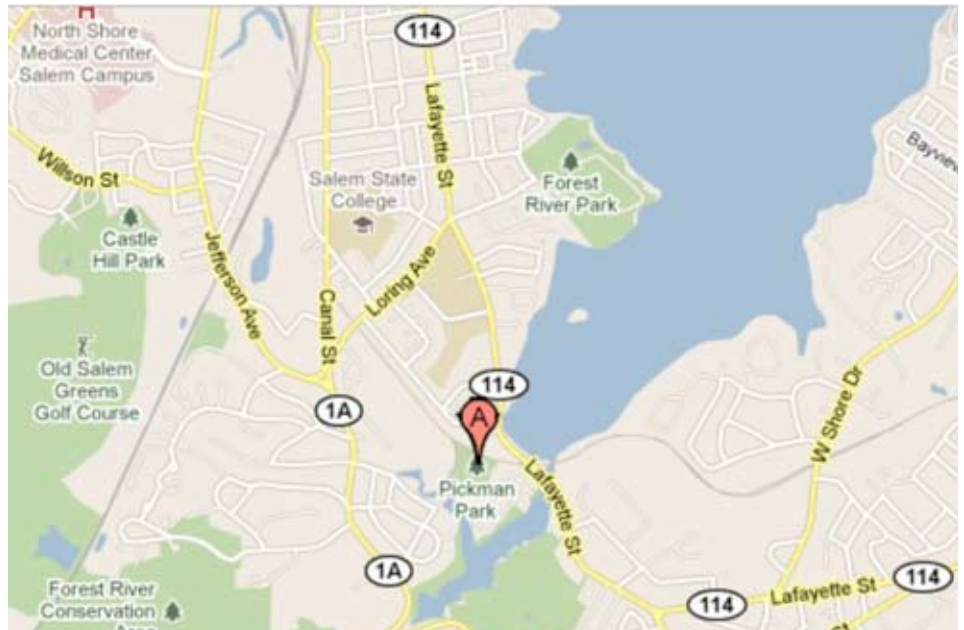


## SCG Expands to Pickman Park

Despite the harsh winter, Salem Community Gardens continues to grow! This season we are adding a fourth location to SCG—Pickman Park.

In January, members of Friends of Pickman Park attended SCG's monthly board meeting to present their proposal as the next community gardening site in Salem. With approval from the SCG board and the Salem Parks and Recreation Committee, plans to implement the new garden site have moved forward. This project has been established in conjunction with Pickman Park's playground and infrastructure refurbishment.

The garden plots will be raised beds built on the park's former tennis court. Approximately 95 beds will be installed to serve an estimated 40 gardeners. All raised beds are either 4' x 4' or 2' x 8' (16 square feet) and cost \$15 each. This site, like all SCG



sites, is open to all Salem residents and employees of the City of Salem. To see the Pickman Park garden plan, download the map posted on SCG's website: <http://tiny.cc/1fd6s>.

Construction of the raised beds

will begin in mid-April. If you are interested in helping, please contact Brett Mentuck, [bmentuck@gmail.com](mailto:bmentuck@gmail.com). If you are interested in applying for a plot at Pickman Park, please contact [registrar@growsalem.org](mailto:registrar@growsalem.org).

### Friends of Salem Community Gardens

If you are too busy to tend a garden, you can still be a part of the fun! Salem Community Gardens announces its Friends of SCG program, which is open to all. There are no residency or green thumb requirements.

For only \$10 a year, membership includes:

- Quarterly newsletters
- Invitations to social gatherings and classes
- Access to the gardens
- Being a part of community gardening



To join, email [registrar@growsalem.org](mailto:registrar@growsalem.org) or mail a \$10 check to SCG, P.O. Box 82, Salem, MA 01970.



# Winter Island Needs Your Support!

As many of you know, the City of Salem has commissioned a study to determine a master plan for Winter Island. One public input session has been held—attended by several Salem community gardeners—and the next is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 at 120 Washington Street, 3rd floor. The Cecil Group will be presenting its initial plan at this time. We need as many people as possible to attend this meeting and demonstrate how important it is to have a community garden at Winter Island!

The current status is that the garden is in the “would be nice” vs. the “must have” category, behind boating and water activities, preserving historic character, etc. In our favor, the garden is used exclusively by Salem residents. We are hopeful the final plans will include a garden ... but we suspect it will be in a different location.



Although we're hopeful, early feedback has been far from reassuring—we truly do need gardeners to show up in force on Tuesday.

In the meantime, we're getting ready for a great growing season! Fence repairs are under way, and some boxes are already planted!

## Winter Island Public Input Session

**Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 P.M.**  
120 Washington Street, 3rd floor  
Show your support!

## ✓ Mark Your Calendars

### April Manure Delivery

Organic manure has been delivered to the Mack Park, Palmer Cove and Winter Island gardens for use in your plots. Welcome spring!

### Tilling at MP and PC

In-ground plot tilling is slated for early-to-mid April. Anyone who has signed up with Carolyn McGuire by email will receive a notice as soon as the date is set. Please send your \$20 check for tilling to SCG, P.O. Box 82, Salem, MA 01970.

**April 17:** Moderate frost-free date (after this date, there's a 90% chance of no moderate frost—i.e. Salem will not experience temps below 28°F). It's safe to plant your cold weather crops!\*

### May

**May 1:** SCG's Annual Pot Luck and Meeting will be held on Sunday, 5:00 – 7:30 P.M. at the Senior Center, 1 Broad St. Get to know your fellow gardeners and share your favorite recipe. An Evite with details is coming soon.

**May 1:** Light frost-free date (after this date, there's a 90% chance of no frost at all—i.e. that Salem will not experience temps below 32°F). It's safe to plant warm weather plants!\*

### June

**June 11:** Yard Sale on Salem Common, Saturday, 8 A.M.–2 P.M. Clean your closets and raise some green for SCG! More details to come.

*\*Dates based on NOAA data from 1951 to 1980 for Rockport.*

# Changes at Palmer Cove Garden

This spring you will notice two big changes to the Palmer Cove garden—the donation/children’s garden is gone, and the layout of the community share plot will be different. These adjustments helped us pull many new gardeners off the PC wait list. Some people have been waiting for a year and a half!

Children who visit the garden can work in the exterior plot or just tromp around looking for seeds or bugs—whatever we’re working on. And thanks to the great responses we’ve had to weekly calls for donations, we don’t need to maintain a large donation garden at PC. A 10' x 10' donation garden will be at Mack Park—where there is less demand for space.

The community share plot (on the outside of PC) saw a lot of traffic last summer and we are changing the layout to make it easier for the elderly to get in to pick while (hopefully) keeping the dogs out! We will have the plot tilled mid-April and then we’ll have a few work days to install new paths, the fences, and the seedlings—watch for emails.

We will also install a sturdier version of the informational placards this year and some additional educational signs in late spring. We really want to have this outreach arm of Salem Community Gardens looking top notch this year. If you want to be involved with this effort, the planting, or garden maintenance, contact Lisa Spence [info@growsalem.org](mailto:info@growsalem.org)—there’s plenty to do all year.

## Seedlings

We’ve started many seedlings! We’ll have the following starts to plant in the community share plot soon: dill (fernleaf), stevia, thyme, borage, cilantro, parsley, lemon grass, mizuna, artichoke (Imperial Star), tomatoes (Pink Beauty, red pear, Brandywine & Prudens purple), peppers (Jalapeno, sweet pimento Lipstick & Yankee bell), eggplant (Gretel), snow peas (Oregon giant), basil (Genovese), zucchini (Plato), summer squash (Zephyr), cucumbers (striped Armenian), kohlrabi (Korridor), kale (green Winterbor), cabbage (Chinese Rubicon & early green Gonzalez), broccoli (Bay Meadows), brussel sprouts, arugula, lettuce, Swiss chard (Fordhook giant & bright lights), and spinach (smooth Emu).



## On a Personal Note...

Do you have some news or info that you’d like to share? Send it our way: [news@growsalem.org](mailto:news@growsalem.org).

## Contact Us

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